

In 1981, they bought an adjoining building on Lenox Avenue, renovated it and turned it into a dining room. In 1992, Sylvia's son, Van Woods, launched a line of Sylvia's Soul Food Products. The line consists of Sylvia's world famous all-purpose sauces, pre-seasoned vegetables, spices, syrup, cornbread, pancake mixes, and several other items that can be found on the shelves at any grocery store.

With the help of some great investors, Sylvia's was able to open its second restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia in 1997. Sylvia's of Atlanta is located right across from City Hall. Plans are in the works to open additional Sylvia's restaurants in Texas, Kansas, Illinois, California, South Carolina, and Paris, France.

This well-known restaurant attracts a clientele that ranges from Harlem locals to visiting celebrities including President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and Magic Johnson.

However, Sylvia's success is not based solely on her restaurants and food product line. Recently, the family launched a line of beauty products for hair and skin. Sylvia's beauty products consist of two brands: Sylvia's Beauty and Soul Products; and African Vision Products.

Sylvia and her husband Herbert will tell you the secret of their success is love, family and hard work, love of God, love of family, love of friends, customers, and love of work.

Sylvia and Herbert met in a bean field when they were 11 and 12 years old, respectively. They attended the same school and church and have now been married for nearly 65 years.

I would like to honor Sylvia's Soul Food Restaurant where I have eaten on many occasions and where I plan to eat again.

□ 2100

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THANKING MR. BEN SOLOMON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful House to say farewell to Ben Solomon. Ben is the manager of the Longworth convenience store, and we want to thank him for his 4 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Employed for over 19 years by Guest Services, Incorporated, Ben's assignment to run the Longworth convenience store began on December 15, 2003. Since that time, he has endeared himself to Members, House staff, and visitors.

Ben has been nicknamed Mr. Mayor of Longworth Main Street because of his unwavering commitment to serve the needs of every customer to the full-

est extent possible no matter who they are or their political affiliation. To Ben, all politics was local. He always greeted every customer warmly with his ever present smile and a kind word. Most of the 1,000 or so customers who pass through the store daily are greeted by name. His positive outlook never fails to make even strangers feel welcome.

Ben can be proud of the level of service he provided to his customers each and every day. He viewed his work as a sacred duty, and felt no job was too small for him to do. He could be seen in the hallway working alongside his employees unpacking boxes of merchandise. At the same time, Ben would take the time to pause and say hello to any number of many familiar customers as they passed by the store. Ben brought a unique brand of sincerity and dedication to his job every single day. It is marvelous to look at each nook and cranny of the store shelves at the many unique and interesting things Ben would stock because one of his customers asked for it at an earlier visit.

On behalf of the entire House community, we bid a fond farewell to our friend, Ben Solomon, and extend our deepest appreciation for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him well. We wish him success in his future endeavors. He will sincerely be missed by all.

We are also grateful to all those who serve in this great House, service to many of us in so many different ways, and especially honor Ben this evening.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of Mr. CLYBURN's Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, normally we come to this floor to debate, and quite often in our Special Orders we have the opportunity to speak in positive tones about positive things that are going on in our district or in our Nation.

I am very proud to represent Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. It is the district that encompasses Independence, Missouri, and the home of Harry Truman. In this Fifth District, I am proud that the fastest growing city in the State of Missouri is not the two largest cities, Kansas City being the largest, St. Louis being the second largest, but it is a city that many people have not even heard of. It is called Lee's Summit.

Lee's Summit, Missouri is exploding with growth. Its mayor, Karen Messerli, is doing a fantastic job. The downtown area is being redeveloped. But what I want to zero in on this evening is Lee's Summit West High School.

Madam Speaker, this high school has achieved something that I don't believe can be matched by any other congressional district. So far this year, from September to December, they have won three State 4A championships. The girls volleyball team won the State championship coached by Mark Rice. The girls cross country won the 4A State championship coached by Dave Denny. And then, just recently the Titans football team coached by Royce Boehm won the 4A Missouri State championship and went through the entire season undefeated.

I was listening to Judge Poe earlier talk about some tragedies in Iraq. And I sat here, and it caused me to tremble to think about what that young woman must have gone through; and it also caused me to renew my commitment to focus on the positive attributes of our young people. If you visit Lee's Summit High School, which has been in existence only 4 years, 4 years, and it has already become one of the most prominent schools in the State of Missouri, not just for athletics, but because this school is well organized. Their population, 1,300 students, is constantly growing. The principal of that school, Cindy Bateman, is doing a fabulous job. They are achieving academically. And I am so proud to be able to stand on this floor tonight and speak without qualification about how fabulously this school is performing.

Most of the time, girls' athletics are ignored. And so in the Missouri 4A volleyball championship, probably there are people even around in Lee's Summit who are unaware of the fact that that State championship has been won. The cross country club normally would be ignored, but they have achieved something positive. They brought some positive attention to that school.

And so, on this night, I would not only like to lift them up and express how proud I am to represent that particular area, but I would also encourage any Member of the United States